

City Council Minutes

November 10, 2003

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on Monday, November 10, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall.

The following members were present: Mayor Key, Councilors Saager, Woods, Records and Kelley. Staff member present was Assistant City Manager Linda Hall. Citizens present were Merle Sherman, Jon McFarland, Emilio Sandoval and Bill Albee. Councilors Humbert and Lyon were both out of town, as was City Manager Delphine Palmer.

Members of the press present were Jeff Durham of the Blue Mountain Pioneer, and Kathy Korengal of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS: Items on the consent calendar include minutes from the October 27, 2003 meeting. Councilor Kelley moved to adopt the Consent Calendar and Councilor Records seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Key announced this was the opportunity for citizens to approach the council with items not on the agenda. None approached.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST BY BILL ALBEE TO NAME LEGION BASEBALL FIELD IN HONOR OF BOB IRELAND AND GEORGE McRAE. Bill Albee thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to present formally the letter submitted to city government. The naming of the Saager Fire Station was a real inspiration for this present request. We are real good about doing these things posthumously; we're very quick to correct what should have been done perhaps before. Mr. Albee said he didn't think there was any question about George McRae and Bob Ireland, their interest in this city, their continual contributions. When we think about role models, and the fact that we sometimes scratch for them, it is so important that we have in our community these kinds of people who continually serve and stand as role models. It is easy to become distracted as your kids grow up, and here is George McRae who has a grandson that has gone through the program where he never let go of the dream for everyone to be able to participate. George McRae is now in his early eighty's and is now heading up the program for the new batting cage that may be used by individuals of all ages for both softball and baseball players. It truly shows the dedication these men have shown for a period of time and would therefore like council to give strong consideration to rename the field commonly known as the American Legion Field to the honor George McRae and Bob Ireland.

Mayor Key asked which name comes first. Mr. Albee said perhaps alphabetically, but that as close as these two gentlemen have worked together, Mr. Albee stated he didn't believe it would matter, even to George McRae or Bob Ireland.

Councilor Woods asked if there were a specific policy regarding the naming of buildings in the City. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall said the City does not have a formal written policy for naming rights. There have been several discussions through the years first spawned by the Aquatic Center. The Library Foundation Board does have a policy. Mr. Albee explained by saying when a large fundraising, such as the library building, naming rights per donation are commonplace. Councilor Woods said he understood naming rights for buildings, but was asked by a citizen about renaming a street after a former police chief and was concerned about any policies that the City may have. Ms. Hall explained saying that the naming of streets and the naming of actual facilities is somewhat different. Street naming is usually driven by the developer unless it is a main arterial, where the city reserves the right to name those streets. Historically, our City has been very protective of naming facilities after individuals. It is a very high honor and our city councils have not taken the naming of facilities after an individual lightly. Historically, each bestowed honor represents historical contributions of time and/or funds. Staff's recommendation to honor George McRae and Bob Ireland at Mr. Albee's request, did not come lightly either.

Councilor Saager said he was familiar with fifty plus years of service for Mr. McRae and Mr. Ireland and so moved to accept the request by Mr. Albee to rename the American Legion Baseball Field to McRae/Ireland Field. Councilor Kelley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Councilor Records stated he could go back fifty years himself as Mr. McRae was his baseball coach in 1950, possibly 1949.

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION OF MOBILE VENDORS LICENSE AND PARKS VENDOR FEE BY MILTON-FREEWATER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall said that Mr. Jon McFarland, Executive Director of Milton-Freewater's Chamber of Commerce is here this evening. As you recall this was a tabled request by the Chamber for an exemption or clarification to the City's mobile vendors and parks vendor fees, which are two fees implemented this summer. Ms. Hall stated she felt this proposal from the Chamber was a very clever way to compromise between the two positions, and that it is well thought out and well defined. Mr. McFarland may certainly explain the proposal further, but Staff was impressed with the compromise and would recommend its support.

Mr. McFarland summarized the proposed compromise, which is in a letter from the Chamber of Commerce dated October 21, 2003. Mr. McFarland said he wanted council to know that the board recognized clearly the need for a fee schedule.

Councilor Woods asked what the cost of Muddy Frogwater festival for the City. Ms. Hall said that depending upon the year, extra patrols, etc. the cost may be between \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Councilor Kelley said she was not sure what fees would be charged. Mr. McFarland said the proposal indicates that VENDORS would pay an additional park fee of \$20.00 plus a Mobile Vendor Permit fee of \$15.00 for a total of \$35.00. An ASSOCIATE VENDOR would pay the Mobile Vendor Permit fee of \$15.00. An ADMINISTRATIVE participant TYPE ONE would pay the Mobile Vendor Permit fee of \$15.00, and TYPE TWO (an information booth only) would be exempt from all City fees. CITY SERVICES/MAJOR SPONSORS of \$1,000.00 plus would also be exempt from City fees.

Councilor Saager moved to approve the Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce proposal for an adjusted fee plan for the Muddy Frogwater Festival and Cinco de Mayo Festivals only. Councilor Kelley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR JR'S NIGHT CLUB INC. (CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP). Assistant City Manager Linda Hall said that in March of 2003, Council considered an on-premises liquor license for a business with the name of Studio 69 Dance Club, which was located at 501 N. Main Street. That owner has sold the facility back to its previous owner, Emilio Sandoval, who is now applying for the same privilege of liquor license. This application is merely a change in ownership. Our police department investigated the application and would recommend its approval as it is an existing tavern on North Main, however, the police department would place the same conditions on Mr. Sandoval as were placed on him during his original ownership. These conditions are outlined in a "Plan of Operation" dated November 18, 2002. To clarify a somewhat confusing error on the application, the OLCC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission) Representative Ben Eckles phoned to inform me that a box was checked wrong on the application and was in error; that the privilege being applied for is Limited On-Premises Sales referring to beer and wine sales only, with no carry-out sales. This privilege is the same as in the past. Ms. Hall said she checked the correct box and initialed the change.

Councilor Saager asked if Mr. Sandoval knew of the correction. Ms. Hall said he did. Councilor Woods asked if the business adjacent to the corner building was the same business or a different one. It was determined it was a different business. Councilor Kelley asked if the police department requirements had been discussed with Mr. Sandoval. Ms. Hall said that had been done.

Councilor Kelley moved to approve a Limited On-Premises liquor license for JR's Night Club Inc. with restrictions as outlined by the November 18, 2002 "Plan of Operation". Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER. Mayor Lewis Key stated he would like to recommend the appointment of Kim Fitzpatrick to the vacancy on the Recreation Committee. Mayor Key said she moved here from Pendleton and is very interested in serving our community in some capacity.

Councilor Records moved to accept the appointment of Kim Fitzpatrick to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Committee. Councilor Saager seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant City Manager Linda Hall announced to all in attendance that City Hall, Public Works, and the Library would be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day. Some city employees are volunteering for traffic control for the parade to be held at 11:00a.m. Ms. Hall said, "Come out and salute our Veterans!"

Mayor Key said there would be a service at the Armory tomorrow night, November 11th, at 7:30 p.m.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Woods said he was attending the Watershed meetings and wanted to bring Council up to date. The main project the Watershed is working on is trying to get a dam put in on Pine Creek. He further said they were progressing forward on this project and were addressing property owners at this time along with studies by the Corp of Engineers.

There being no further Council business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor